

The Bellnote

Universalist Unitarian
Church of East Liberty
2231 Jefferson Road,
Clarklake, MI 49234
(517) 529-4221

Volume 224 Number 9

September 2009

LOCATED 3/4 MILE WEST OF U.S. 127

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: Her day off
Tuesday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Friday: Sermon-writing day
Saturday: By appointment
Sunday: By appointment
Cindy works mostly from her home office

STAFF

MINISTER Rev. Cynthia Landrum

R. E. COORDINATOR Sharon Pedersen

MUSIC DIRECTOR Nancy Cooper

NURSERY & CHILD CARE Vicki Haynes

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Gratia Karmes

VICE PRESIDENT Jane Volk

SECRETARY Becky Bowen

TREASURER Kerry Hart

TRUSTEE Nancy Smith

TRUSTEE Cecily Savick

CARING COMMITTEE

Alyce Oosting

BOARD/ELECTED NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joyce Weatherwax
Carol Bowen
Nena Obits



Minister's Column

September means school and school-year jobs starting up again. I'm particularly excited about this fall, because my daughter is starting kindergarten. I've always loved fall and the start of a school year, and I've enjoyed picking out school supplies and school clothes with her. I'm even starting to count down the days until school begins!

In our church community, fall means Homecoming, with a new religious education and worship year starting. As I start my sixth year as minister in this church, I'm excited about the work that we're doing in our church and in the community. The fall is starting off busy, as this jam-packed Bellnote issue will show. In the next two months, we'll be starting First Friday dinners, JDL/UUCEL Community Forums, and adult religious education, and we'll be having a congregational meeting and the fall bazaar. The Faith Action Network is holding a "Together in Faith" conference that other UUs are joining in on to work for equality, specifically marriage equality in Michigan. I'm particularly looking forward to the First Friday Dinner that will include the bad poetry contest, and am working on an ode to a penny found in my sofa. Can you top that? Please try! For more on the Together in Faith conference, see <http://www.faithactionnetwork.org/TIFBasics.html>. Later in the fall, we'll have another used book sale, so start piling those books you are ready to give up into boxes and tuck them in a corner of your house or apartment, because we'll put out the call for them before you know it.

The JDL/UUCEL Community Forums are beginning their fifth year this fall, and are now a regular part of our church's work in the community. The community is responding, as well, with thanks and offers of co-hosting specific topics. The library has proved to be a tremendous partner for this effort, creating beautiful posters, and this year funding both the Big Read forum and purchasing the video for our October forum on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Since we always want to start big, we're starting this year with our community's hottest topic: healthcare. We're working on redoing our posters for the forums, and creating a special brief edition of the newsletter to hand out at forums. When you see our newsletter editors, give them a special thank-you for being willing to take this on. I think it'll be a real asset.

Continued on next page . . .

UUism and having the youth develop their own "credo" statements. I'm glad to have two new teachers along with several returning ones that will be working with these youth. Orientation for this group of teachers started Thursday August 27. These "teens and tweens" will also stay in services when Rev. Cindy preaches from her series on the Sources of UUism—see the front of your hymnal underneath the 7 Principles for the statement on the Sources if you're curious.

Teachers will be "commissioned" (installed) during the Homecoming service, **September 13th**. Don't forget to bring your "Waters of the World" from your travels, and a little money to enjoy the Ice Cream Sundae Sunday, which is an RE Program fundraiser at Social Hour. All the ice cream and toppings are being provided by Amanati's Frosty Boy on Cooper Street, and I'm hoping to have frozen yogurt and sugar-free alternatives to the locally-made "real stuff."

The RE Breakfast will be at 10:00 am on **Sunday September 20th**. While kids and their families are the focus of this event, to introduce teachers and welcome children back, all church members and friends are welcome to attend the breakfast, and a small donation is requested, based on your ability to pay, of course.

Since I mentioned it earlier, here's advance notice that the Harvest Bazaar is scheduled for **October 24-25**, the weekend before Halloween. You might think about crafts, baked goods and/or holiday items that you'd like to donate to this nice event. And there are usually soups offered for sale in the social hall during the event.

Thank UU
to all who make RE possible!

Sharon



Religious Education Coordinator

Wish List for RE Fall/Winter 2009-2010

Box of business size, white envelopes - Grocery bags - Newsprint/flipchart pad, 18" x 24" - "People" (book) by Peter Spier new or gently used copy - Inflatable globe/world ball.

From the Piano



Outside the trees and flowers are beginning to fade from the bright colors of "high" summer and children are looking forward (or not) to school. At UUCEL, choir practice begins again on **September 13th** another sign that fall is on its way. Perhaps you'd like to join us?

We rehearse every Sunday from 10:00 am until early arrivals for the service drown us out. We sing about once a month with extra pieces for the Christmas holidays.

You don't have to be able to read music. Both leaders and followers are welcome. Some members are able to attend every week, but if your schedule is heavy or unpredictable, come whenever you can and we'll be delighted to see you.

On **September 13th** at 4:00 pm we're having a season opener potluck dinner at my house in Jackson. Bring a passing dish, a partner or spouse and a sense of humor. I'll supply meat. New singers are welcome too.

I am always eager to hear what music you'd like to hear sung or played. Please let me know.

Gioiosamente,

Nancy Cooper

~~A reminder to those that help with social hour and/or if you or your child is a messy eater: "Please sweep the floor." The broom & dustpan can be found in the small closet on the other side of the kitchen door on the stairs. This is asked by the cleaning person who comes only once a month and by then it is ground in and hard to remove Thank you. ~~

Notes from the Board

At our meeting Wednesday, August 11, a new slate of officers was approved. They are: **Gratia** Karmes, President, **Jane** Volk, Vice President, **Kerry** Hart, Treasurer, and **Becky** Bowen, Secretary, along with **Nancy** Smith and **Cecily** Savick as trustees.

Other actions included restoring the salary of the RE Coordinator position to the amount it had been previously, as recommended by the Congregational meeting this summer. We also discussed distribution of keys to the new doors that are being installed. If you have not received a key and feel you need one, please contact anyone of us. Our meetings are (usually) the first Wednesday of every month, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. If you have items for consideration please submit them, *in writing*, to any member of the Board. Board minutes will be posted in the social hall.

Please put **Sunday, October 11th** on your calendar as that is the next Congregational Meeting after the service.

Submitted by: Gratia Karmes



Sabbatical

In The *Handbook on Sabbatical Leaves*, Cohen and Pohl say: "What thoughts and feelings do congregations or individual members have—before, during, and after sabbaticals? How can they and the minister deal with these thoughts and feelings? What does the congregation gain and lose because of a sabbatical? The answers to such questions are complex." The Sabbatical Committee will hold a series of conversations about these issues during the next few months in preparation for the Rev. Cindy's sabbatical.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact a member of the Sabbatical Committee: Steve Beison, Ann Green, Carole Hartstuff, Victor Marshall.

Adult Religious Education Opportunity

Join us on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm, starting on **September 15th**, for the 12-week adult religious education program "Harvest the Power: Developing Lay Leadership" led by our minister. Sign up on the bulletin board in the social hall, or contact Rev. Cindy. It is not necessary to make a commitment to all 12 weeks to attend.

Many Unitarian Universalists experience a deepening commitment to their faith and congregation as a call to accept a position of leadership—as a lay worship leader, a leader of children or youth or a member of a task force, committee or governing board. "Harvest the Power" provides leadership skill development that goes hand-in-hand with faith development. The program helps lay leaders grow in spirit as they grow as leaders. Harvest the Power addresses the reality that today's leaders operate at a time of rapid cultural change, both in and outside our congregations. Leaders need a broad range of skills, both technical and visionary. The program's 12 workshops offer opportunities for both new and experienced leaders to enrich the skills they bring to their leadership and to experience their leadership journey as a Unitarian Universalist faith journey. Topics include: Leadership Journey, Unitarian Universalist Journey, Power and Authority, Turning Points and Moments of Grace, Fated to Be Free, Caring for Ourselves and Each Other, Integrity, Imagination and Creativity, Facing Danger, Understanding Systems in Your Congregation, Keeping Distress Productive, and Adaptive Leadership.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy Landrum

"Go now and live your religion.
Its truth reflect in all you do.
Go, may love's presence ever guide you.
Live the good life the whole day through."
~~ Our Closing Song~~

Meetings and Events

U.U. Church of East Liberty

Ice Cream Sundae

Join us following the service on **September 13th** (Homecoming Sunday) for a special Ice Cream Sundae Sunday. The ice cream social will be a fundraiser for religious education. All the ice cream and toppings are being provided, and I'm hoping to have frozen yogurt and sugar-free alternatives to the locally-made "real stuff."

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen

Cascades Humane Society

Dedication of Gardens and Blessing of the Animals will be on **Saturday, September 19th** noon – 2:00 pm, 1515 Carmen Drive, Jackson. Our Rev. Cindy Landrum will be participating in this event.

Submitted by: Rev. Cindy Landrum

Up-Coming Events

First Friday Dinners are back! We will skip September this year as the First Friday falls on Labor Day Weekend. Starting off the year with a First Friday Dinner on October 2nd, the choir will host. The theme will be "Spaghetti and Bad Poetry." See full article on page 7. The next month, November 6th will be hosted by Jon Hart and Rob Gaecke. On Sunday October 11th there will be a **Congregational Meeting** after the service; please plan to attend. **The Harvest Bazaar** will be Saturday and Sunday October 24th and 25th. This will take place in the schoolhouse. Organizers are looking for crafts and food items for the Bazaar sale of Fall/Halloween and Christmas items. We are going to have another **Used Book Sale**. Please start thinking about any books you may have to donate. It was very successful last year. Maybe you know someone that would like to donate their books to you! The sale will be in the social hall, open to the public on Friday and Saturday, November 20th and 21st this year. The books may still be around on Sunday the 22nd, but no public hours as we had last year. Workers will be needed to sort and sell books; the time will be announced next month. On Sunday, December 13th we will be having a **Holiday Bake Sale** so start thinking about what you would like to make, bake and buy.

Submitted by: the Membership Comm.

commUnity forUms

...are free and open programs to facilitate dialogue about the challenging issues of our time. ForUms are usually held at the Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch, located at 244 W. Michigan Ave. between Blackstone & N. Jackson Street. ForUms are usually on the third Thursdays at 6:30-8:30 pm. The commUnity forUm is sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty in conjunction with the Jackson District Library.

The commUnity forUm kicks off its fifth big year on Thursday, September 17th with **HEALTH CARE: Where Are We Now?** Want to know what's happening with federal health care legislation? Will a new law go far enough? Too far? A panel of local experts and interests will discuss where we are and where we ought to be. The audience will be invited to ask questions. Join Jim and Donna Benedict, advocates of universal health care, and a panel of diverse interests, including representatives from business and from health insurance, for an important conversation on this complex and often controversial issue. The forum will take place on **Thursday, September 17, 2009 at 6:30 pm at the Carnegie Library** in downtown Jackson. If you need childcare, please notify Sharon Pedersen or Nancy Smith.

Submitted by: Outreach Committee

~The Brooklyn Food Pantry is an organization that we have voted to support under our Social Mission policy~

Brooklyn Food Pantry

It's our turn to have one or two volunteers to work at the Brooklyn Food Pantry, 171 Wamplers Lake Road, Brooklyn. The pantry is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to fill the orders of those in need of food and restock shelves. Our work dates are **Tuesday, September 29th and Thursday, October 1st**. If you are available to help in this rewarding work please contact Paul Jenkins at church or give him a call. Don't forget to bring canned food or any non-perishable items for donation to the pantry. There is a basket in the foyer under the desk for your contributions.

Submitted by: Paul Jenkins

Spaghetti and Bad Poetry!

On Friday **October 2nd** at 6:30 pm the choir is sponsoring the October First Friday dinner. Besides spaghetti, salad, beverages, bread and dessert will be provided. All you have to do is bring money and the very worst poems you can write or steal—no limits or rules. Relative awfulness of the compositions will be determined by ballot and really appropriate prizes will be awarded to the worst. Get those pens and pencils going! Submitted by: Nancy Cooper

New Items of Information

Phone Tree: Has been up-dated with Gratia's name at the top; the president of the church board. A few names have been added and rearranged so your calls in the past may not be the coming from the same person. Copies have been passed out to those that make the calls to others. This phone tree is used in cases of canceled church due to weather / no power or the information of a member passing away that needs to be told before the next upcoming Sunday.

Calendars: The large wipe-off calendar in the social hall is going to be replaced with 12 single month pages. They are printed from our on-line calendar, please feel free to write your event, meeting and rentals to the correct date /month and that will be noted and add to the on-line calendar.

Doors: We have new doors with new locks, please thank the board for their great work. They look wonderful and remember to lock them.

News-in-Brief: "The Bellnote" has a new one page newsletter called "Bellnote News-in-Brief" this issue will be used for the new visitors packets, community forums and a few other places only. Everyone else will be getting the full size issue. This will be a large savings of paper and copies from our machine.

On-Line Newsletter: The editors would like to inform the readers of the electronic version of "The Bellnote," that the change of sites has taken place. This is due to the fact that GeoCities has now closed.

Submitted by: Kathy Haynes

Worship Committee

In September we will start using a "Worship Associate" on Sunday mornings. This will involve a lay person being a part of the service such as opening and closing or joys and sorrows and a reading etc. We will need 5 people to take one Sunday a month. If you are interested please call Lynn Hightower. Submitted by: Lynn Hightower

A.U.U.W.

We, the ladies of the A.U.U.W. are looking for more women of the church to join our group. We meet on the first Thursday of each month. The **September 3rd** meeting will be held at 12:30 pm at Margaret Johns' home; call her for directions. This will be a potluck dinner with ham furnished. President Joan Bernstein and the others would like you to know, "We are a caring social group who gives support to all, come and join us." Submitted by: Margaret Johns

Caring Committee

The Caring Committee next meeting is **September 20th** after the service.

Submitted by: Alyce Oosting

Breakfast on the 20th

The RE Breakfast will be at 10:00 am on **Sunday September 20th**. While kids and their families are the focus of this event, to introduce teachers and welcome children back, all church members and friends are welcome to attend the breakfast, and a small donation is requested, based on your ability to pay, of course.

Submitted by: Sharon Pedersen

Golf Scramble

Please join us for an afternoon of golfing fun with our annual golf scramble. Plan to meet at the Hills' Heart O' the Lakes Golf Course in Brooklyn on **Sunday, October 4th** at 2:00 pm start time. Contact Betty Gulliver if you would like to play; remember it's a scramble so you do not have to play like a pro. It's all in fun. I will put the teams together. After the teams are through playing please join us in the club house for a bite to eat; you order you pay. I was quoted approximate fall prices for walking the 9 holes of \$ 6.00 or renting a cart for \$12.00.

Submitted by: Betty Gulliver

FROM THE EDITOR:

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST COPY OF THE CHURCH'S NEWSLETTER "THE BELLNOTE" WELCOME ABOARD, AND HAPPY READING. OUR CHURCH CALENDAR YEAR RUNS FROM JULY 1-JUNE 30, THE CHURCH BOARD ASKS THOSE THAT RECEIVE THE PAPER VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER TO PAY A \$17.00 PER-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION FEE AND WE STARTED THIS IN AUG., 2007. NEW VISITORS WILL GET 3 MONTHS FREE, AFTER THAT A SUBSCRIPTION FEE WILL BE ASKED FOR, OR CHANGED TO AN ON-LINE VERSION THAT IS NO CHARGE.

THANK YOU – KATHY AND VICKI

THE DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER IS:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

uucel_bellnote@yahoo.com

the Bellnote mailbox.

We want to thank --Nancy Cooper, Ann Green, Betty Gulliver, Kathy Haynes, Lynn Hightower, Paul Jenkins, Margaret Johns, Garita Karmes, Rev. Cindy Landrum, Alyce Oosting, Sharon Pedersen, Outreach Comm. and the Membership Comm., for their news items this month.

"May it be true that a joy shared
is a joy doubled and
a sorrow shared is a sorrow halved"

OUR 7 PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

WE, THE MEMBER CONGREGATIONS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION, COVENANT TO AFFIRM AND PROMOTE:

- ~ THE INHERENT WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON
- ~ JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND COMPASSION IN HUMAN RELATIONS
- ~ ACCEPTANCE OF ONE ANOTHER AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN OUR CONGREGATIONS
- ~ A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND MEANING
- ~ THE RIGHT OF CONSCIENCE AND THE USE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATIONS AND IN SOCIETY AT LARGE
- ~ THE GOAL OF WORLD COMMUNITY WITH PEACE, LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL
- ~ RESPECT FOR THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB OF ALL EXISTENCE OF WHICH WE ARE A PART

The Bellnote Calendar

All events are at the church, unless otherwise noted

2 Wed.	Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm	September
3 Thurs.	AUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm @ the home of Margaret Johns	
4 Fri.	No 1st Friday Dinner -- Labor Day Weekend	
6 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Guest Speaker, Jim Walker	
8 Tue.	Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am	
9 Wed.	Worship Committee Meeting ~ 5:30 pm	
10 Thurs.	Membership Meeting ~ 1:30 pm	
13 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ -Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum	
13 Sunday	Homecoming Sunday	
13 Sunday	Ice Cream Social and Fundraiser for the R.E. (Religious Education)	
13 Sunday	Choir Potluck Dinner at the home of Nancy Cooper ~ 4:00 pm	
15 Tue.	12-week adult R. E. program "Harvest the Power: Developing Lay Leadership" ~ 6:30 pm	
16 Wed.	Religious Education Committee Meeting ~ 7:00 pm	
17 Thurs.	commUnity forUms ~ HEALTH CARE: Where Are We Now?	
	@ Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch ~ 6:30 pm	
19 Sat.	Dedication at the Cascades Humane Society -- Rev. Cindy ~ Noon - 2:00 pm	
20 Sunday	RE Breakfast ~Everyone is Welcome ~Serving at 10:00 am	
20 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum	
20 Sunday	Caring Committee ~ After the Service	
22 Tue.	Adult R. E. program "Harvest the Power: Developing Lay Leadership" ~ 6:30 pm	
27 Sunday	~~~~ Service ~ 11:00 am ~ Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum	
29 Tue.	Brooklyn Food Pantry; work day ~ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	
29 Tue.	Adult R. E. program "Harvest the Power: Developing Lay Leadership" ~ 6:30 pm	

Upcoming Events

Oct. 1	Brooklyn Food Pantry; work day ~ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Oct. 2	1st Friday Dinner ~ Hosted by the Choir
Oct. 4	Golf Scramble @ Hills' Heart O' the Lakes Golf Course ~ 2:00 pm
Oct. 11	Congregational Meeting ~ After the Service
Oct. 24-25	Harvest Bazaar ~ In the Schoolhouse
Nov. 6	1st Friday Dinner ~ Hosted by Jon Hart & Rob Gaecke
Nov. 20-21	Used Book Sale ~ In the Social Hall
Dec. 13	Holiday Bake Sale and Santa's Workshop ~ After the Service

WEEKLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Sun.	Greeters	Ushers	Social Hour Host	Nursery Helper	R.E. Teachers
Sept 6	Alyce O.	Gary T. & Steve J.	Open	Michelle V.	
Sept 13	Grace M.	Gary T. & Paul J.	Ice Cream Fundraiser Sharon P.	Open	
Sept 20	Joan B.	Gary T. & Lynn H.	Lynn H.	Kathy H.	
Sept 27	Betty G.	Gary T. & Pat G.	Chris K.	Peg G.	

Reminder to all: Please check regularly the sign-up clipboards in the social hall on the corkboard wall for open dates. **Nursery now starts at 10:50 am** not at 11:15 am. So the nursery worker Vicki and the helper for the day need to be with the children under age 5 & before the service. The volunteer list needs to be full each month.

All Sunday Services Start at 11:00 am ~ Celebrating Over 150 Years of Liberal Religion

Sept. 6 - "The Labor Union Today"

- Guest Speaker, Jim Walker

Jim Walker of the UAW will speak on the importance of labor unions in today's society.

Sept. 13 - "Homecoming Sunday"

-Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

Join us for the start of the year as we celebrate our Homecoming from our summer travels with this special service in which we bring waters from our summer travels to bless our community together, and we recognize the incoming board members and religious education teachers.

Sept. 20 - "Days of Awe and Ramadan"

-Rev. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

Two major holidays from two major religious come together this year at this time: The Jewish "Days of Awe" begin with Rosh Hashanah on September 9th, just as the Muslim month of Ramadan ends with Eid al Fitr on September 20th. What meaning can we take from this convergence?

Sept. 27 - "Healthcare:

The Great Moral Debate"

-Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister

Healthcare is a moral issue, for people on both sides of the current debate. What does our faith demand of us on this national issue?

Special Collection: Planned Parenthood

Where people care about each other and care about the world.
http://kernit_21049203.tripod.com/the_bellnote_uucel.html
www.libertyuu.org
eastlibertyuu@yahoo.com

Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty
2231 Jefferson Road
Clarklake, MI 49234
Return Service Requested

